

black. While white-throated birds are most common in the west of Abyssinia, they crop up elsewhere in the south and south-west, and he considers the white throat more an individual than a geographic variant. The present specimen is intermediate in this respect, having a few white feathers on the throat, two of which are tipped with red. Macdonald also describes a melanistic mutant in which the head is normal but the body is brownish black except for thin yellow edging on some of the inner secondaries.

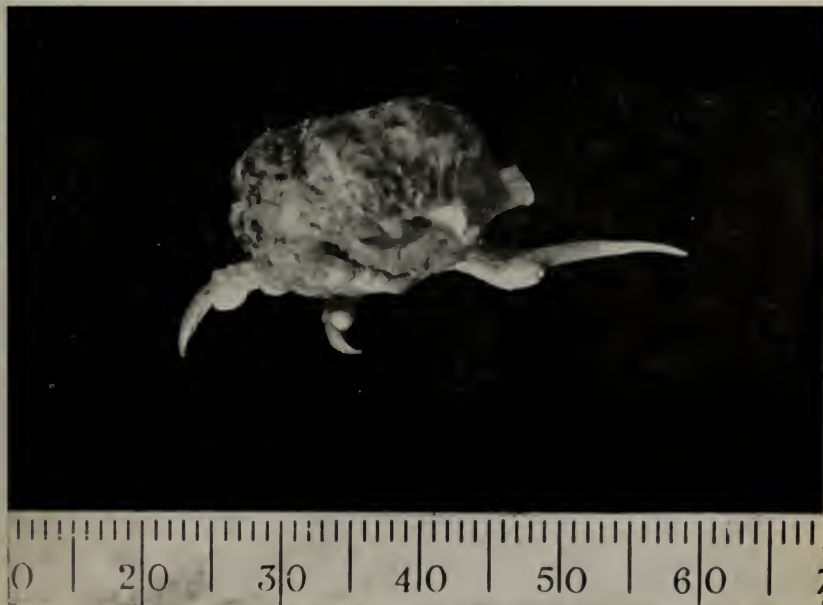
Although the orange-washed specimen appears to be a mutant, I hesitate to call it that because it appears to be moulting into this aberrant plumage from a normal one. The body plumage is fresh and the wings and tail are just completing moult. The second and third secondaries on each wing, however, are still of the previous plumage and they have yellow edgings as in normally plumaged birds. Considering the known variability of the species, this could be a mutant in which the aberrant characters do not appear until the adult plumage. On the other hand, the change in colour may be due to some abnormal element in the diet which enriched the yellow pigments, and not have any genetic basis.

A benign tumour of the foot of a Crested Lark

by JAMES M. HARRISON AND HAIM HOVEL

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On 14th October, 1959, one of us (H.H.) shot a Crested Lark, *Galerida cristata altirostris* Brehm at Beersheba; the bird was frequenting the rubbish tip. On examining it a large tumour was found involving all the toes of its left foot (Fig. 1). The bird was in good general condition and



Simple Chondroma of Crested Lark's foot

weighed 483 grammes. An X-ray examination revealed no bony involvement. Tissue for culture was sent back to Mr. A. H. Heather, to the Sevenoaks Hospital and material for section was also submitted at the same time.

A direct smear showed many organisms of various types as might be expected from its visits to the garbage dump of a big city, but no *M. tuberculosis* were found. Culture grew some Acid-Alcohol fast bacilli, but protracted subculture, for which we are indebted to Dr. A. McDiarmid of the Agricultural Research Council, failed to establish the condition as tuberculous.

Dr. Keith Randall, Consulting Pathologist to the Sevenoaks Hospital reported that the "section shows a simple chondroma, being composed of ill-formed irregular cartilage throughout the section examined".

This case would evidently appear to be one of a simple chondroma in view of Dr. Randall's report, and the few Acid-Alcohol fast bacilli found at the primary culture are to be regarded as contaminants.

Our thanks are due to Dr. Keith Randall, Consulting Pathologist, Dr. Hugh Hay, Consulting Radiologist to the Sevenoaks Hospital, to Dr. McDiarmid and to Mr. A. H. Heather for the above investigations.

A European Green-winged Teal with a white neck-ring

by JAMES M. AND JEFFERY G. HARRISON

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In a previous paper (Harrison, 1958) we drew attention to an homologous recurring character in drakes of the European Green-winged Teal, *Anas crecca crecca* Linnaeus, and the Yellow-billed Teal, *Anas flavirostris flavirostris* Vieillot, in the form of a white spot, as a rule slightly triangular in shape, at the root of the neck anteriorly. In this paper we listed six examples of this mutation. More recently we have also suggested that this white neck-spot was homologous to the white semi-ring of the drake Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* Linnaeus, (Harrison, 1961), being a minimal expression of the character.

Our latest example to be described is a fully adult drake European Green-winged Teal, which was shot on 5th November, 1961 on the Medway Estuary, Kent, by Mr. Charles Swan. The remarkable thing about this bird is that the white marking has assumed the character of the white semi-ring of the drake Mallard. As can be seen from the photograph, (specimen A) the white marking extends well onto the sides of the neck. It is the same shape although not quite so extensive as in the Mallard, moreover it is proportionate to the size of the bird. For comparison, the specimen is shown beside one with the more usual white neck-spot variant, (specimen B) a first winter drake shot on the Medway Estuary, Kent on 18th November, 1961. A further example, almost as extensive as on specimen A, but not included in the photograph, was shot by Mr. Ross Young near Kenmare, Co. Kerry, Eire on 2nd December, 1961.

We would submit that this specimen fully confirms our contention set out above and that this homologous recurring character is to be regarded as of reversionary significance, suggesting a close affinity between the Mallard and the European Green-winged Teal.